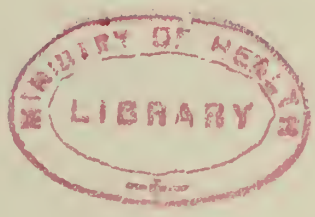
LIBRARY



URBAN DISTRICT OF HORBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year

1943.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HORBURY.

Chairman of the Council

Councillor Harry V. Bennett., J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor W.W. Hartley., J.P.

Members.

Councillor G.H. Audsley.
Councillor F.J. Baines.
Councillor H.V. Bennett, J.P.
Councillor H.S. Crooke.
Councillor W.W. Hartley, J.P.
Councillor R.V. Hoyle.
Councillor G. Marsden.
Councillor H. Rowley.
Councillor G. Senior.
Councillor J. Tetley.
Councillor F. Wilson, J.P.

Representative on the Wakefield and District Joint Small-pox Isolation Hospital Committee.

Councillor G. Marsden.

Medical Officer of HEALTH and SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ADDINGFORD ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

HUGH L. NEIL., M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Superintendent of Scavenging

John H. Horsfall, C.R.S.I.

Nurse-in-Charge Addingford Isolation Hospital.

Miss B. Colbridge.

Health Visitor & School Nurse.

Miss C. Bamford.

District Nurse

Nurse Brooke.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Rateable Value of General Rate £56,497.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £152. 1. 5d.

Birth-Rate (Live Births) 17.92 per 1000 of the population.

Birth-Rate (Live and Still Births) 18.45 per 1000 of the population.

Death-Rate (uncorrected) 8.9 per 1000 of the population.

Death-Rate (corrected) 14.12 per 1000 of the population.

Infantile Death-Rate 30.3 per 1000 Births Registered.

Zymotic Death-Rate .13 per 1000 of the population.

Death-Rate from Tubercular Diseases .27 per 1000 of the population.

Rainfall for 1943. 23.55 inches.

URBAN DISTRICT of HORBURY

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for 1943.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL REPORT upon the health and sanitary conditions of the district during 1943.

War conditions with increased duties devolving upon local authorities and their officers, with depleted staffs, and in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health, has rendered it necessary to condense this report to a brief summary dealing only with subjects of current interest, and the preservation of statistical records.

VITAL STATISTICS for 1943.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M	F
Legitimate	127	61	66
Illegitimate	5	2	3
Birth-rate 17.92 per 1000 (Live Births) of the population.			
STILL-BIRTHS.			
Legitimate	4	3	1
Birth-rate (Live and Still-births) 18.45 per 1000 of the population.			
DEATHS.	104	57	47
Death-rate 14.12 per 1000 of the population.			

DEATH of INFANTS UNDER 1 Year of age.	Total	M	F
Legitimate	4	4	-
Infantile Death-rate of 30.3 per 1000 Births registered.			
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0	0	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14	7	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	0	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa	1	1	0

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered to residents of the district was 132 (63 males and 69 females) which gives an ANNUAL LIVE BIRTH-RATE of 17.92 per 1000 of the population.

The number of Still Births was 4 (3 males and 1 female) giving a BIRTH-RATE (Live and Still Births) of 18.45 per 1000 of the population.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 66 (34 males and 32 females) which is equal to an ANNUAL DEATH-RATE (uncorrected) of 8.9 per 1000 of the population.

The number of Deaths of Horbury residents in Institutions, outisde the district was 38 (23 males and 15 females). This brings the total of Deaths of Horbury residents up to 104 (57 males and 47 females) giving a CORRECTED DEATH-RATE of 14.12 per 1000 of the population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of Deaths registered of children under 1 year of age was 4 males. This gives an INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE of 30.3 per 1000 Births registered.

The Birth-rate, Death-rate and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales for the year 1943, per 1000 of the population are as follows:-

Live Births	16.5 per 1000 of the population
Still Births	0.51 " " " " "
Deaths (all causes)	12.1 " " " " "
Deaths (under 1 year of age)	49.0 per 1000 Live Births

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Hugh L. Neil, M.B. Ch.B.	Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of the Addingford Isolation Hospital (part time).
John H. Horsfall, Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors. Diploma Royal Sanitary Institute, as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.	Sanitary Inspector; Inspector of Housing; Meat and Other Foods; Factory and Workshops; Petroleum, etc., Superintendent of Scavenging.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious Diseases.

Horse Ambulance used solely for the conveyance of Common Infectious Diseases, notified in the district, to the Council's Isolation Hospital at Addingford, Horbury.

The Wakefield & District Joint Small-pox Hospital Committee provide a Motor Ambulance for the removal of cases of Small-pox.

(b) General.

An efficient Motor Ambulance is provided by the Horbury Urban District Council, used exclusively for the removal of Accident, Surgical and Maternity cases to such Institutions and places as may be necessary, no charge being made for its use to permanent residents of Horbury, providing a Medical Certificate is produced certifying that it is essential that an Ambulance should be used in the removal of the person concerned.

The service is also available to residents of the adjoining districts in the Rural Area at a fixed scale of charges.

During the Year 1943 the Motor Ambulance has been called upon to make 226 journeys in conveying cases to and from the following Institutions, etc. as follows:-

Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.	141
Dewsbury Infirmary & County Hospitals.	34
County Hospital, Wakefield.	17
Leeds Infirmary.	15
Other Institutions & Places.	18
Bradford Royal Infirmary	1

NURSING in the HOMES.

This Urban District has no established Institution from which the services of professional Nurses can be obtained. When Nurses are required it is necessary to arrange for them to be brought from private nursing homes established in the neighbouring large towns.

There is however in the district a voluntary society, The Horbury District Nursing Association, upheld entirely by private subscriptions, which works in close co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health and Private Practitioners.

This association retains the whole-time services of a fully trained Queens Nurse, who upon request makes daily visits to homes in cases of sickness and invalidity, and for dressings after Surgical operations, etc.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The treatment centre for Venereal Disease is at the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield.

MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE.

The Centre for Maternity and Child Welfare (Consultation and Treatment) is held in rooms attached to the House of Mercy, Northgate, Horbury, where the Medical Officer of Health, Child Welfare Nurse and a staff of voluntary helpers are in attendance weekly.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

The examination and treatment of children in the Day Schools, is carried out at the schools by the Medical and Dental Staffs of the County Medical Department.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is carried out by the Medical Staff of the West Riding County Council, under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health, the treatment centre for this area being The Tuberculosis Dispensary, Almshouse Lane, Wakefield.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Infectious Diseases.

The Addingford Isolation Hospital, Horbury, used only for the treatment of cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Urban District of Horbury - 26 Beds for 3 diseases, viz., Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, can be treated concurrently.

Small-pox.

The Carr Gate Small-pox Isolation Hospital, Wakefield, and other Institutions as arranged by the West Riding County Council.

Tuberculosis.

At the various Sanatoriums under the control of the West Riding County Council.

Children.

The Childrens' Hospital, Bradford.

General.

The following General Hospitals take in patients from this district, viz., The General Infirmary, Leeds; The Royal Infirmary, Bradford; The General Infirmary, Dewsbury; The Eye and Ear Hospital, Bradford; The Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, and the County Hospitals at Wakefield and Staincliffe, Dewsbury.

Laboratory Facilities.

Valuable service is rendered by the staff of the County Labaratory, Wakefield, in the examination of Sputums, swabs, etc., together with the bacteriological examination and analysis of Milk, water, etc., services which are much appreciated and credit is due for the expedient manner in which the various specimens and samples sent there are dealt with.

Mortuary.

The Urban District Council has provided and maintain a well equipped Mortuary and Post-mortem room, upon their premises at the rear of the Town Hall, and by arrangement allow the use of the Mortuary to the adjoining districts in the Rural Area, for post-mortem examinations, etc.

Water Supply.

The Horbury Urban District is well served with an excellent supply of good drinking water, which is obtained from Dewsbury, Batley and Wakefield Corporations. A constant supply is laid on to all houses and premises in the district. The supply from all sources is quite satisfactory both in quality and quantity, and is controlled by bacteriologial examination and chemical analysis monthly, the results of which have been satisfactory.

PREVALENCE of, and CONTROL Over INFECTIOUS and Other Disease (other than Tuberculosis)

	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	92	91	1
Diphtheria	3	3	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Measles	91	1	1
Whooping Cough	17	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	3

Where complete isolation cannot be maintained in the homes of the patients notified, they are removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital at Addingford, Horbury, for treatment.

In the case of Infectious Diseases allowed to be nursed in the homes of the patients, complete isolation is insisted upon and advice given as to the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

4 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified and added to the Register during 1943.

The total deaths from Tubercular Diseases during 1943 was 2, which is 1.92 per cent of the total deaths registered from all causes, and a Tubercular Death-rate of .27 per 1000 of the population.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued consideration and support, and to the Sanitary Inspector Clerk and other officials for their co-operation and able assistance to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H. L. Neil

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Horbury.

14th October, 1944.

URBAN DISTRICT of HORBURY

ANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS
of the COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to submit for your consideration my THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT upon the work carried out under my supervision by your Sanitary Department during the year 1943.

This Report would, under normal conditions, have marked the close of my official career, being due to retire at the end of 1943.

The difficult and changed conditions brought about by the War has greatly retarded the valuable work carried out by the department in normal times, attributable largely to the increased duties placed upon local authorities and their officials and the shortage of man-power.

In spite of these difficulties all essential work relating to conditions and other influences likely to be dangerous or prejudical to the public health and the comfort and well being of the residents of the district has been carried out, including the rigid inspection and strict supervision of food supplies coming into the district, milk production and distribution, the collection and disposal of refuse, etc., and the general inspection of the district.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTORIAL WORK.

During the year, 1217 visits and inspections have been made to various premises for the investigation of complaints, the suppression of nuisances and defects, and the inspection of works in progress necessary for remedying of the same.

Further a large amount of my time has been devoted to other additional administrative work, in connection with A.R.P. Decontamination Service, Food Treatment Service, and the Salvage of Waste Materials needed for the National Effort.

741 Letters and other communications have been sent out by the department during 1943, while 12 Informal Notices were served upon owners and occupiers of premises calling for the abatement of nuisances and defects, etc., while in numerous other cases nuisances and defects were remedied by my calling upon owners and occupiers personally and bringing the defects to their notice.

Number of Nuisances and Defects on the books at the end of 1942.	0
Number of Nuisances, etc. reported during 1943.	69
	69
Number of Nuisances, etc. remedied during 1943.	69
Number of Nuisances, etc. remaining on the books at the end of 1943.	0

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Practically all sanitary conveniences in connection with the residential and business premises in the district are on the water carriage system, with the exception of a small number of 16 privies and 16 pail closets, unconvertible at the present time by the fact that they are situated in the outlying parts of the district where a sufficient sewer is not available.

The total number of water closets in use in the district is approximately 2,370.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse is carried out by direct labour of the Sanitary Department with the Council's own motor vehicles under my direction and supervision.

In addition to the collection and disposal of refuse, the vehicles and staff of the department have carried out the collection of Kitchen Waste from 100 communal bins in the district, together with the salvaging of waste materials - paper, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metals, rags, bones, rubber etc., and have further been engaged for 200 hours during the year on haulage work for other departments of the Council, without impairing the efficiency of the cleansing work, and thus bringing about a saving in hired team labour.

The approximate number of receptacles for which the department is responsible for cleansing is 2030 dust bins, 17 dry ashes places, 16 privies, 16 pail closets and 8 cesspools.

All the Township's refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Addingford, with the exception of the small quantity from pail closets, etc., which is deposited upon farm lands for manurial purposes. No complaints have been received of any nuisance caused from this method of disposal, which has proved not only satisfactory but economical. It is essential however that strict supervision should be maintained in this form of disposal.

The net costs incurred in the collection and disposal of refuse in the district for the financial year ending 31st March, 1944, was £1,775, which includes Wages, Tools, Petrol, Oil, Disinfectants, etc.

The cost per load during 1943 was 14s. 2d. or approximately 3.2d. per house per week.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

Waste Paper	70	Tons	18	cwts.	3	Qrs.	Value	£463	3	9
Scrap (Ferrous)	3	"	19	"	0	"	"	6	9	9
Scrap (Non-ferrous)	0	"	1	"	0	"	"	1	18	0
Rags and Bagging	2	"	8	"	0	"	"	15	14	5
Bones	0	"	10	"	1	"	"	2	10	4
Rubber	1	"	14	"	1	"	"	3	17	0
Kitchen Waste	43	"	5	"	3	"	"	68	3	9
								£561	17	0

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 1943 the following samples were purchased in the district by the County Inspectors, in accordance with the provisions of the above Act.

No. of Samples taken.	Nature of Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
9	Milk	9	0

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Despite prolonged war conditions the general standard of housing in the district is remarkably good, and although a fair amount of labour has been directed here for war work, in addition to numerous evacuees, cases of overcrowding are relatively small.

The Urban District Council are the owners of some 452 houses on their various sites at Northfield Lane, Gorvase Road, Sunroyd Hill and The Shutt.

Shortage of labour, materials, etc., together with wartime restrictions has greatly hampered work in connection with inspection and reconditioning of dwellings under the Housing Act and the inspection of District Regulation, while the erection of new buildings is entirely suspended.

FACTORIES.

39 Mechanical Factories and 29 Non-mechanical Factories are on the Register in the district, including 7 bakehouses, which have all been regularly visited during the year and on the whole were found to be maintained in a cleanly and satisfactory condition, including sanitary arrangements.

Great improvements have been brought about in many of the factories by the provision of canteens, light and roomy dining rooms and equipment for the preparation, cooking and serving of meals.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

6 private slaughter-houses are on the Register in the district, viz. 4 Licensed, 1 Registered, and 1 Licensed for a limited period.

With the operation of Government Control of Meat supplies, all the private slaughter-houses in our district are now out of use, the centralised slaughter of all live stock intended for human consumption for this area is now carried out at the Wakefield City Abattoir, from which centre the meat supplies are allocated to all the surrounding districts in the Wakefield area.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Despite the shortage of staff and additional wartime duties, every attention has been given during the year to this necessary and important branch of Public Health work, much time having been devoted to the inspection and examination of the meat allocations brought into the district, and to all other foods, both at the allocation centre, the retail food shops, food stores and food preparing premises. In all the premises the sanitary conditions and the standard of cleanliness maintained in the preparation, handling, storage and distribution was found to be satisfactory.

In no case was it found necessary to make any seizures but the following foods were, upon examination, found to be unsound and unwholesome and unfit for human consumption, and on the conditions being brought to the notice of the owners, surrendered to me and destroyed or disposed of for commercial purposes or animal feeding.

Fresh Pork - 70 lbs., Bacon - 14 lbs., Cheese - 17 lbs.,

Eggs - 6½ dozen, Tinned Meats (various) 125 lbs., Tinned Soups -

115 - 1 lb. tins, Unsweetened Condensed Milk - 2853 - 14½ oz. tins.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS ETC.

Practically all the milk supply for the district is produced locally, either in the Urban District or in the adjoining Rural Area, none whatever coming in by rail.

In spite of transport and labour difficulties, no shortage in supplies has yet been experienced, the supply being plentiful and of good quality.

No. of Persons registered as Cow-keepers	7
No. of Registered Cow-sheds	13
No. of Accredited Producers	1
No. of Registered Retail Purveyors	23
No. of Licensed Retail Purveyors of Pasteurised Milk.	1

75 inspections have been made during the year of the premises of Registered Cow-keepers and Retail Purveyors of Milk, when the general sanitary condition and standard of cleanliness of the premises and utensils was found to be satisfactorily maintained.

Informal samples have from time to time been taken during the year from Retail Purveyors during delivery and tested for dirt content with good results.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

26 premises in the Urban District are licensed either for the sale and storage, or storage only of Petroleum Spirit or Petroleum Mixtures, in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum Consolidation Act, 1928., viz., 24 for the sale and storage of Petroleum Spirit and 2 for the storage of Petroleum Mixtures.

22 of the licensed premises store the spirit in underground steel tanks fitted with standard pumps, while on the remaining premises the spirit or mixtures are kept in steel drums or iron cans stored in specially constructed fire-proof above ground stores.

All the licensed premises have been visited and inspected during the year and no contravention of the regulations or conditions specified on the licenses have been observed.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES.

The disinfection of all premises where cases of Infectious Disease are notified, is carried out immediately after removal of the patient to hospital, or if nursed and isolated in the home, after recovery of the patient, the method used being Formaldehyde vapour and spraying.

Premises are also disinfected after other diseases and causes upon a written request being made.

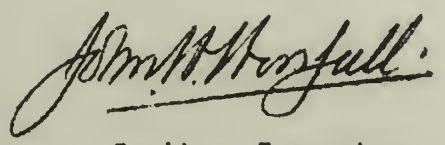
Arrangements are also made, upon written application being received from owners and occupiers, for the disinfestation of verminous premises with Hydrogen-Cyanide Gas, subject to such owners or occupiers undertaking to bear the costs of carrying out the work.

No. of houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	92
No. of houses disinfected after deaths from other diseases and causes	4

Where cases of Infectious Disease are notified the dwellings of the patients are inspected, the sanitary conditions ascertained, defects and nuisances (if any) noted, and steps taken to have the same remedied.

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their careful consideration given to matters referred to them, and to the Medical Officer of Health and other officials for their able assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall,
Horbury.

31st. September, 1944.

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C.R.